Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 6, line 9, with the following:

The basic geometrical features of the invention are illustrated in Figure 1 where a shape 100 of a burner membrane is depicted consisting out of a base section 102, a transition section 104 and a top section 106. Take 'a' as a point under consideration in which [[.]] 'a' has its normal N to the surface. The planes P1, P2 and P3, all containing the normal N, cut the surface of the burner along different trajectories T1, T2 and T3 respectively. The osculating circle C touches T1 in 'a'. It [[If]] will be clear that of all planes containing N, the plane P1 determines the trajectory T1 with the smallest radius of curvature R(a) at 'a'. If now for every point 'x' (not indicated on ~~figure~~ Figure 1) of the transition section this R(x) is determined, the smallest value of all R(x)'s can be chosen. When the procedure is applied to the base section 102 a smallest radius of curvature 'R_{base}' is obtained. Similarly, a smallest radius of curvature '$r_{transition}$' can be found for the transition region. It is essential to the invention that the smallest radius of curvature of the transition region is smaller than or equal to [[than]] the smallest radius of curvature of the base section.

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 6, line 31, with the following:

Figure 3a ~~3 (a)~~ shows the geometrical elements of the first preferred embodiment of Figure 2 according to the line AA'. Only the outer surface of the surface membrane is depicted in order to bring forward the geometrical elements. The frustoconical base section 201 has its smallest radius of curvature at the smaller diameter side. The half top angle of the cone 326 was about 30° although 0° (a cylindrical base section) turned out to work just as well (embodiment not shown). Higher top angles-the maximum being 90°, a flat plane-are also not excluded. All points on the circle 204 share the same minimum radius of curvature R_{base} 328. The sphere 320 with radius R_{base} defines the largest 'smallest radius of curvature' the transition region may have according to the invention. The transition region is part of the surface of a torus formed by a circle 324 that is rotated around the symmetry axis 340. Hence, the radius of circle 324 determines the radius of the transition region '$r_{transition}$' 330. Part of a torus surface between the plane of circle 204 and a plane parallel to the latter is taken as the transition region. Let it be clear that the torus can also be constructed by rotating

an ellipse or an oval or any other rounded figure around the axis of symmetry 340. Also the case, in which the torus is degenerate, i.e., when there is no hole in the middle, is not excluded. This is, e.g., the case in Figure 3a. The closing section 203 is a flat disc in this embodiment. In another preferred embodiment of this invention (no figure provided) the closing section is a small inverted sphere cap thus entailing a depression at the centre of the burner membrane.